



ELSEWORLDS

ANNUAL



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LEGIONNAIRES

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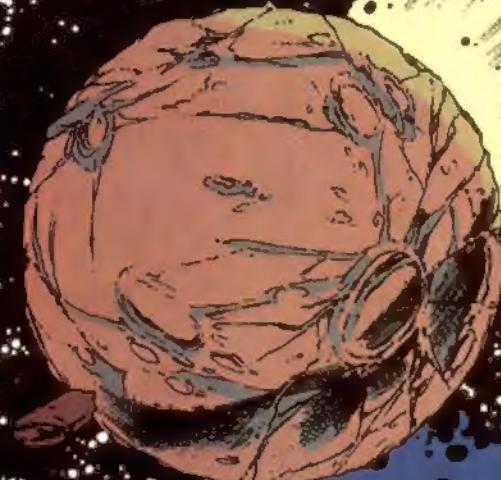
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2990.

TWO CENTURIES SINCE THE PLANET THANARAR-- FIRST IN A LINE OF COUNTLESS THOUSANDS-- FELL BEFORE THE DARK FORCES THAT REORDERED A GALAXY...

...AND STOLE HOPE FROM ALL THOSE WHO DARED BELIEVE IN PEACE AND LIBERTY.

ALL THOSE...



...SAVE ONE.

IT'S--

--NASH--

--IT'S NOT COMING UP, MR. BRANDE!

THEN PULL HARDER, LAP! I ASKED THE BRAILIANS FOR THE BEST MAGNO-TECH THEY HAD... AND EVERY ONE OF 'EM SWORE THAT ROKK KRINN WOULDN'T LET ME DOWN!

CONCENTRATE, BOY. THIS WORLD WAS THE HOME TO A VERY SPECIAL ORE...

...AND THE CHANCE FOR A HUNDRED RACES AND MORE TO ONCE AGAIN LIVE FREE RESTS ON YOUR ABILITY TO FIND IT!



PULL...

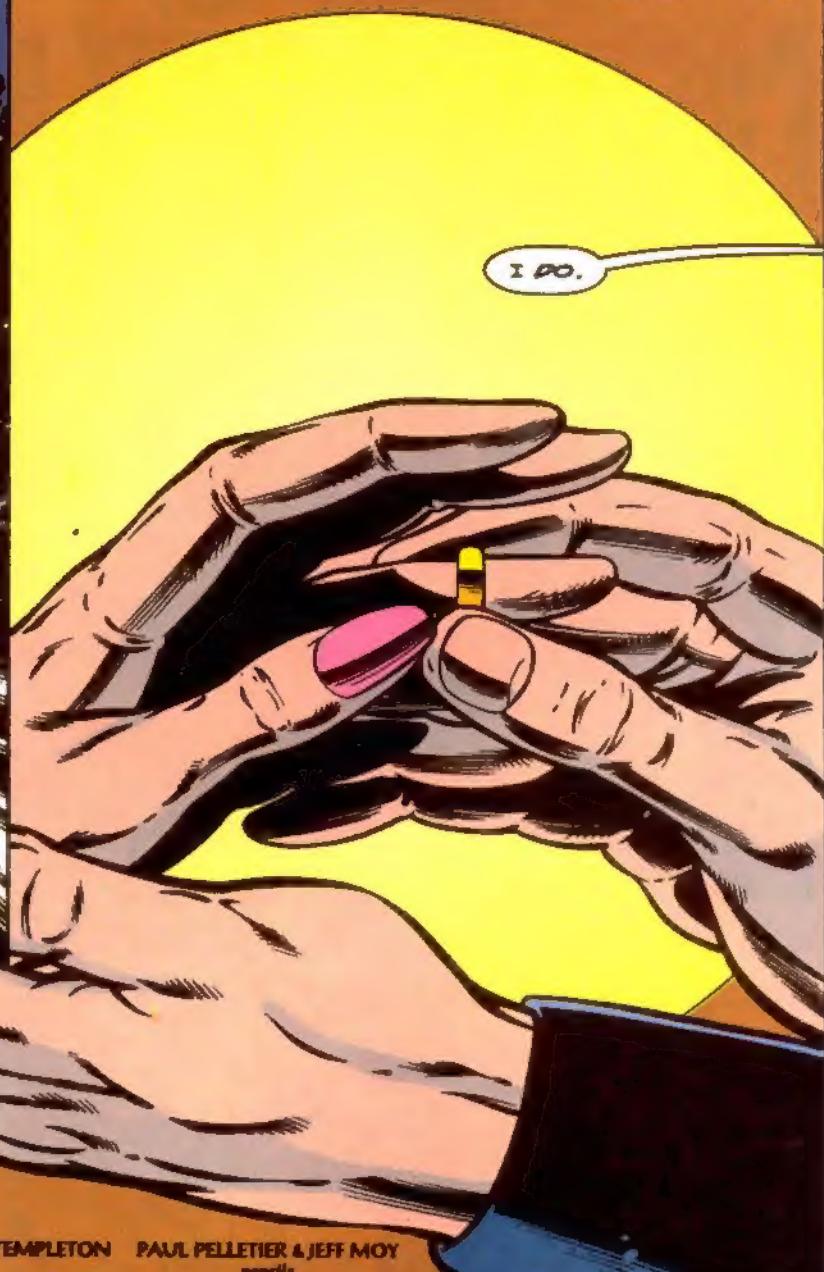
...PULL!





CASTLES IN THE AIR

1995.



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10

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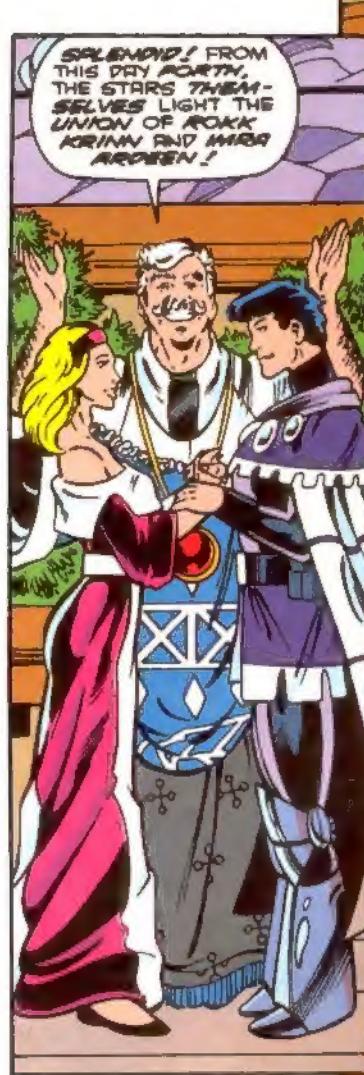
ELSEWORLDS.

In ELSEWORLDS, heroes are taken from their usual settings and put into strange times and places—some that have existed, or might have existed, and others that can't, couldn't or shouldn't exist. This is one of them.

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SPLENDID! FROM THIS DAY FORTH, THE STARS THEMSELVES LIGHT THE UNION OF ROKK KRINN AND IMRA ARDEN!

WHEN I THINK ABOUT HOW THESE TWO MET UNDER MY EMPLOY... HE, A BRAILIAN WITH A HEART FOR LEADERSHIP, SHE THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF A RACE EXTINGUISHED BY THE DAMNABLE CIRCLE...

...WELL, I KNEW FROM THE START THAT THESE YOUNG STRANGERS FROM DIFFERENT WORLDS WOULD FORM, BETWEEN THEM AND AROUND THEM, A VERY SPECIAL TEAM.



SURE ENOUGH, OVER THE YEARS, ROKK AND IMRA GATHERED OTHERS WHO SHARED THEIR PASSION FOR LIBERTY... AND FORGED THEM INTO A MIGHTY CORPS. TOGETHER, THEIR FRIENDSHIP AND LOVE CAME TO SYMBOLIZE A BOND...



...THE CRUCIAL BOND THAT LINKS ALL THE RACES OF SPACE STATION AVALON!

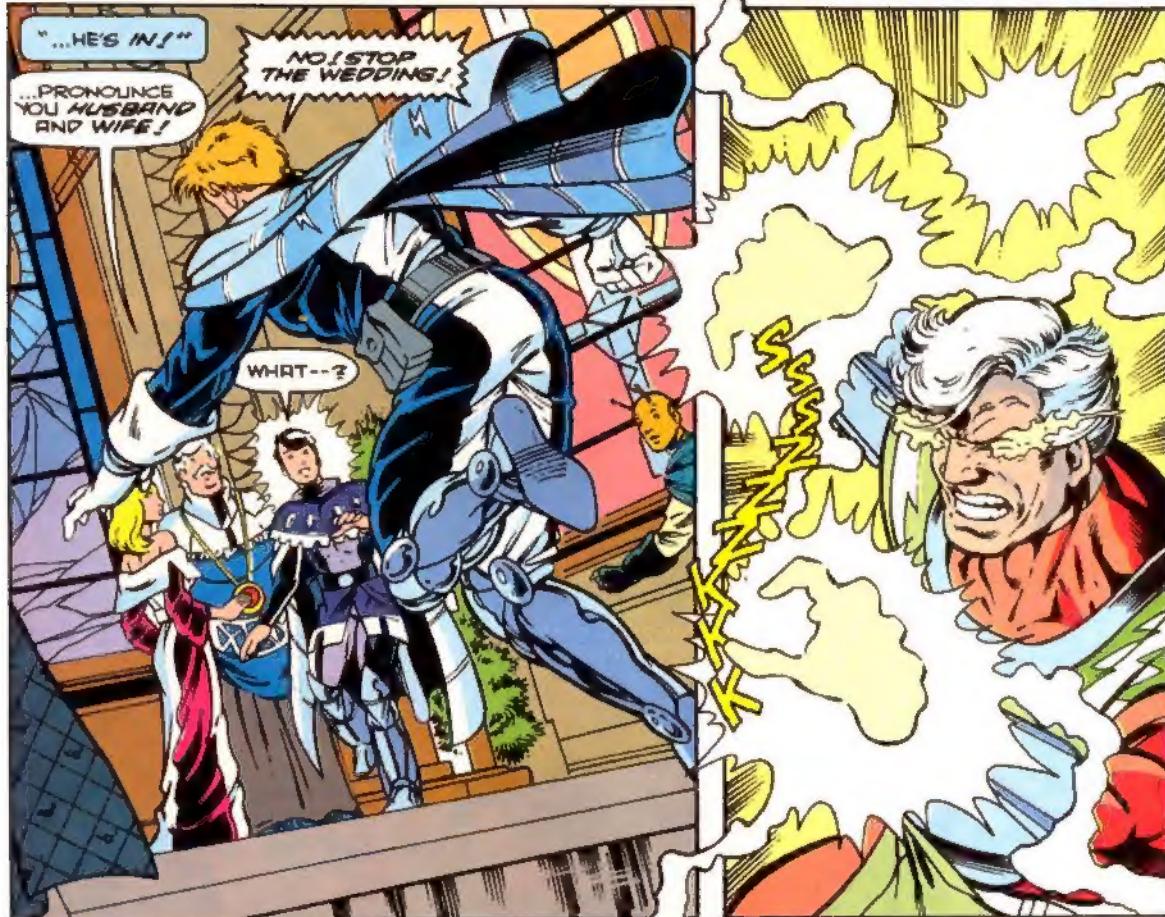


THIS DAY, ROKK AND IMRA FINALLY MAKE THEIR BOND OFFICIAL-- AFTER YEARS OF MATCHMAKING BY THIS OLD GORT!

CHARMATION! IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER, I'D THINK THEY WERE HITCHING JUST TO GET ME OFF THEIR BACKS!









WITH
PLEASURE.

MY NAME IS
GARTH ANNEE...
AND IN SPIRIT,
I HAVE LOVE
FOR ONE OF
YOU.

WHAT
DO YOU
KNOW OF
LIS?

EVERYONE IN THE
SPIRAL ARM HAS
HEARD THE LEGEND OF
R.J. GRANDE -- WHO,
WITH HIS BRAZILIAN
PROTEIN, UNEARTHED
THE FABLED ANTH
METAL--

-- AND WITH IT,
BEGAN CONSTRUC-
TION ON SPACE
STATION AVALON,
FINAL REFUGE
RETREAT FOR
THOSE BRAVE
CIVILIZATIONS
FORCED TO FLEE
THEIR HOMEWORLDS
RATHER THAN SOW
BEFORE THE DARK
CIRCLE.

TODAY, AVALON'S
COMPLETION
IS OVERSEEN BY
AMBASSADORS
FROM THESE TRANS-
PLANTED RACES...
THOSE ADMIRABLE
YOUNG WARRIOR
CALLED LEGION-
NAIRES.

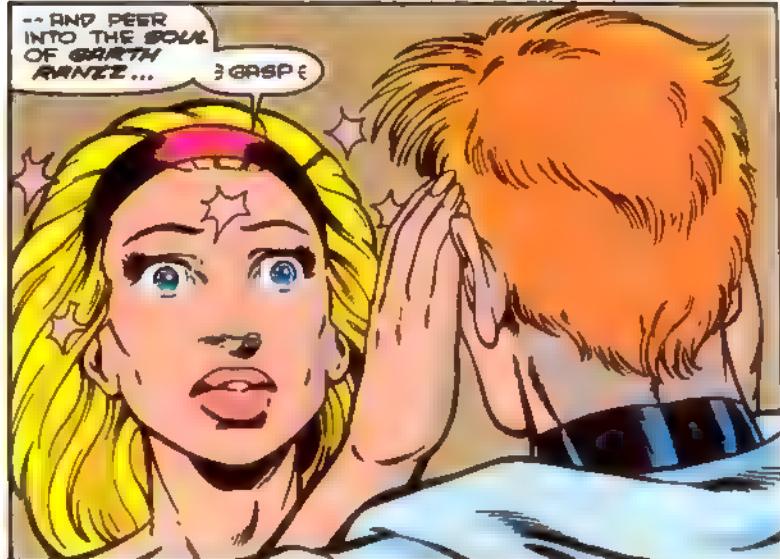
YOUR
WARRIOR...
ONE OF WHOM
SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
ME.

YEARS AGO,
TORN BETWEEN
DESTINY AND
OBLIGATION, I
REABANDONED MY
PILGRIMAGE TO
AVALON IN ORDER
TO FOLLOW THE TRAIL
OF MY MAD BROTHER
MEKT, THE CIRCLE'S
CHIEF ASSASSIN.

I'VE FOLLOWED HIM
FAR AND WIDE,
HOPING SOMEDAY TO
REFORM HIM -- BUT
WHEN I LEARNED THE
CIRCLE HAD SENT HIM
HERE TO SLAY
GRANDE, I FOUND I
CARED FAR LESS
ABOUT SAVING MEKT
... THAN SAVING
AVALON.

THE LEGION--AND
THE STATION IT
DEFENDS--ARE THE
GALAXY'S LAST
HOPE. IT MUST
SURVIVE. PLEASE--
ADD MY POWER
TO YOURS.

MAKE ME A
LEGIONNAIRE.



ALL
JOIN THE
ONE.

ONE BINDS
THE ALL.

THE
BEGINNING
MEETS THE
END.

SUCH IS THE
CYCLE OF
LIFE.

HART
DRUITER

...HAVE
YOU ANY
PRAYERS?

NOT FOR
YOUR GODS
TO HEAR.

THEN HOLD
YOUR TONGUE...
THAT THE OTHERS
MAY REFLECT UPON
THE HORROR OF
YOUR CRIMES.



IN THESE BLACK TIMES, A TYRANNICAL DARKNESS HAS SWORN TO ENVELOP THE LIGHT... AND SWALLOW THE ENLIGHTENED.

BY THREATENING THE SANCTITY OF AVALON, YOU HAVE PROVEN YOURSELF AN AGENT OF THAT DARKNESS... AND A MENACE TO FREEDOM.

THE VERY CORE OF THE LEGION IS BUILT AROUND UNITY. ANY BETRAYAL OF THAT UNITY IS A STRICT VIOLATION OF LEGION CODE...



DAMN
YOU! DAMN
YOU ALL!

YOU CANNOT
WIN! EVEN AS
WE SPEAK, THE
CIRCLE CLOSES
AROUND YOU!

THIS ATTACK
WAS ONLY THE FIRST!
THERE WILL BE MORE
IN THE END! NOTHING
CAN SAVE BRANDE'S
FOLLY FROM THE ON-
SLAUGHT OF DARK-
MEN!

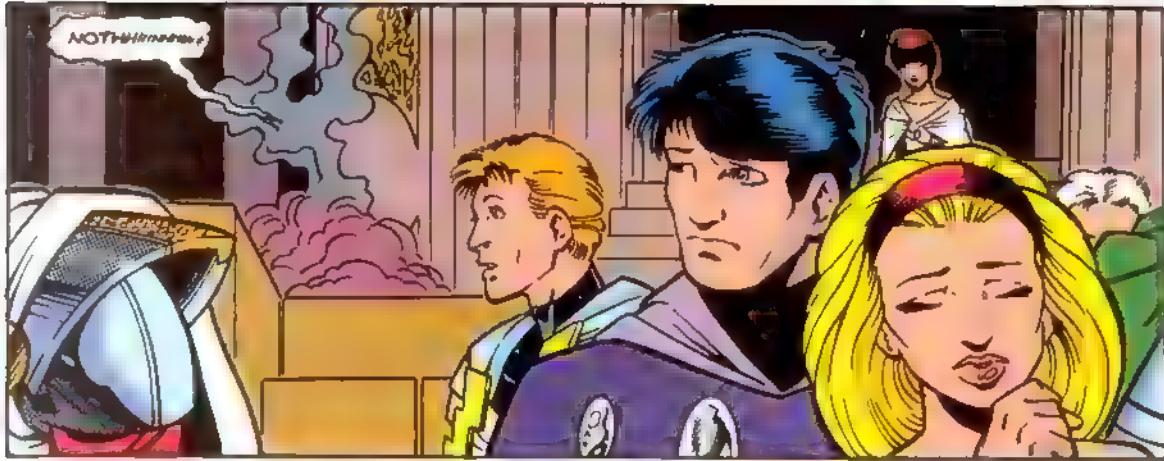
NOT HIS
FORTUNE--

--NOT HIS
LEGIONNAIRES--

--NOT HIS
"MIRACLE
MACHINE" --

--NOTHING!

NOTHING!



AND THEY DIED.

AS THE MONTHS SPUN INTO YEARS, THE LEGIONNAIRES LABORED TIREDLESSLY TO FURTHER AVALON'S COMPLETION.

AND THOUGH EVERY ADVANCE SEEMED COUPLED WITH TWO SETBACKS, ROCK KRINN'S TERM FOUGHT EVER ONWARD...

...SAVING LIVES WHEN THEY COULD...



...MOURNING MAJESTY WHEN THEY COULDN'T.



ALL THE WHILE, CASUALTIES GREW... BUT SO DID FRIENDSHIPS.

GARTH RANCE HAD FOUND HIS TRUE CALLING... AND, IN TIME, FORGOT ABOUT...



MEET
RANZI!

IN YOUR
YEARS WITH THE
CIRCLE YOU HAVE
SERVED THE
DARKNESS WELL.
OF THAT, THERE
IS NO DOUBT.

HOWEVER...

HOWEVER...

IT IS MY
JUDGMENT THAT
YOU HAVE YET TO
PROVE YOURSELF
WORTHY OF MEMBE-
RSHIP IN THE INNER
COUNCIL.

PROMISES
WERE MADE...

AS WERE GUARDS.
THOUGH THE SPECTRE
OF AEE HAS CLAIMED
R.J. GRANDE, HIS
LEGACY CONTINUES...
IN PART DUE TO YOUR
LONG-RAGO FAILURE
ON AVALON.

UNTIL YOU FULLY
REDUCEM YOURSELF
FOR THAT MASTERS,
THERE IS NO
PLACE FOR YOU
HERE.

THAT'S NOT
TRUE.

I BELIEVE
YOUR CHAIR
IS EMPTY.

I AM,
HOWEVER,
FORCED TO
CONCIDE
YOUR POINT.

AVALON
CONTINUES TO
SHINE FAR TOO
BRIGHTLY.

FORTUNATELY,
GENTLEMEN ...

... I KNOW
WHAT WE
CAN DO ABOUT
THAT ...

IT'S AWESOME.
FOR SOMETHING
THAT MAKES
YOU LIGHTER
THAN AIR...

...THIS
LITTLE TRINKET
CAN WEIGH YOU
DOWN SOME-
TIMES.

RAHHH... I TAKE IT
OUR BELOVED LEADER'S
IN A MOOD, THEN,
IS HE?

I SUPPOSE...

YOU KNOW,
TENZIL, I WAS
ACTUALLY ABOUT
TO ASK YOU IF YOU
KNEW WHAT IT WAS
LIKE TO ~~EAT~~ OFF
MORE THAN YOU
COULD CHEW...

...AND YOU
MUNCHIE
RESISTED THE
TEMPTATION.
THAT'S GOOD.

IT'S JUST
THAT HE WAS
ALWAYS SO OB-
STINATE THIS COULD
BE DONE.

WHO...?

GRANDPA, HE NEVER SEEMED
TO HAVE DOUBTS. BUILD
AVROLON... THE GALAXY RE-
UNITES... AND THE DARK
CIRCLE... I DON'T KNOW. JUST
DISAPPEARED ONE-TWO-
THREE, JUST LIKE THAT.

IF ONLY
IT WERE THAT
SIMPLE.

WHAT IS IT WITH
EVERYBODY AND THE
MIRACLE MACHINE? IT
WHY NOT MAGIC ELVES
AND PIXIES?

...IT'S
IMRA.

IT'S A
FANTASY,
TENZIL.

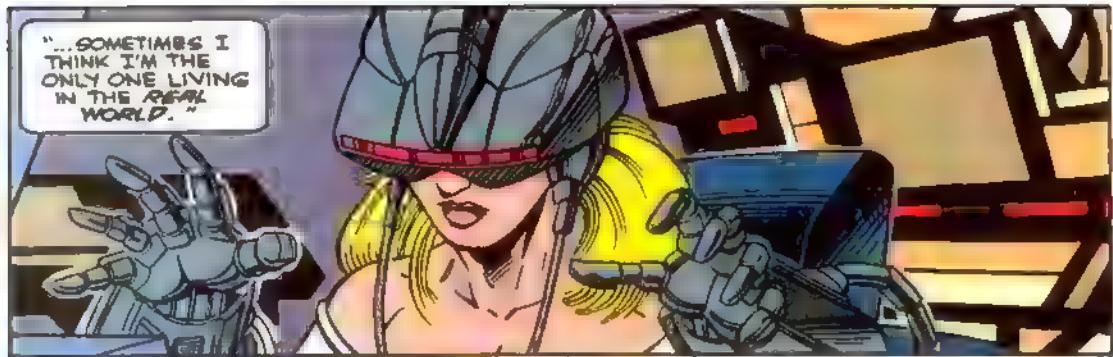
IT'S NOT
REAL.
IT... IT...

I'D BE FINE
IF I HAD A LITTLE
MORE SUPPORT
FROM MY WIFE...
BUT SHE'S ALWAYS
OFF WORK-
ING...

HEY... WISH I
COULD HELP. IF I
HAD THE MIRACLE
MACHINE, I SWEAR
I'D LEND IT TO
YOU FOR THE
WEEKEND.

...OH, WHY AM
I SHAVING IT
YOU? YOU'RE NOT
THE PROBLEM...

...SPENDING
MORE AND
MORE TIME
IN VIRTUAL
SPACE...



CYBERSPACE.

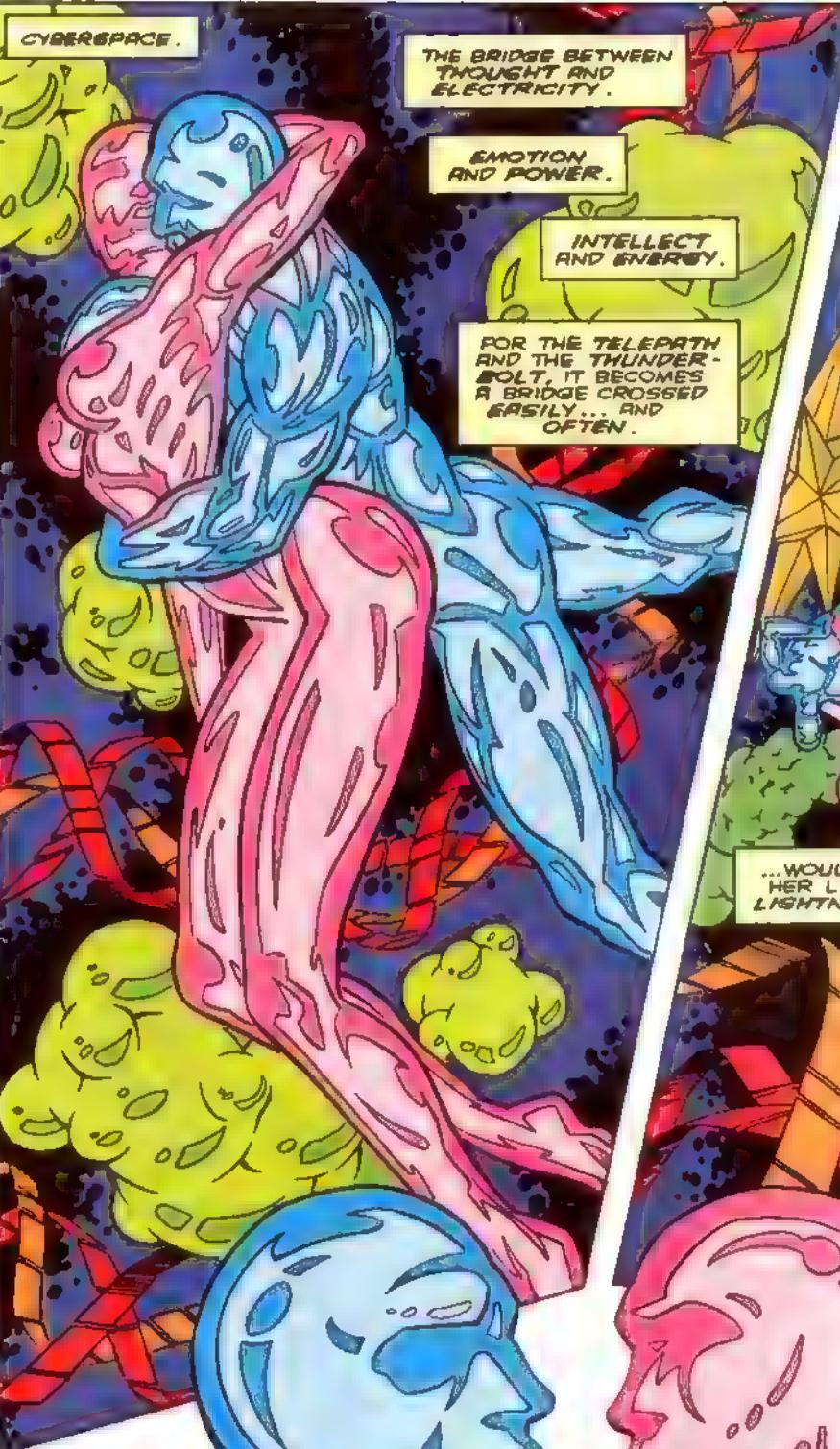
THE BRIDGE BETWEEN
THOUGHT AND
ELECTRICITY.

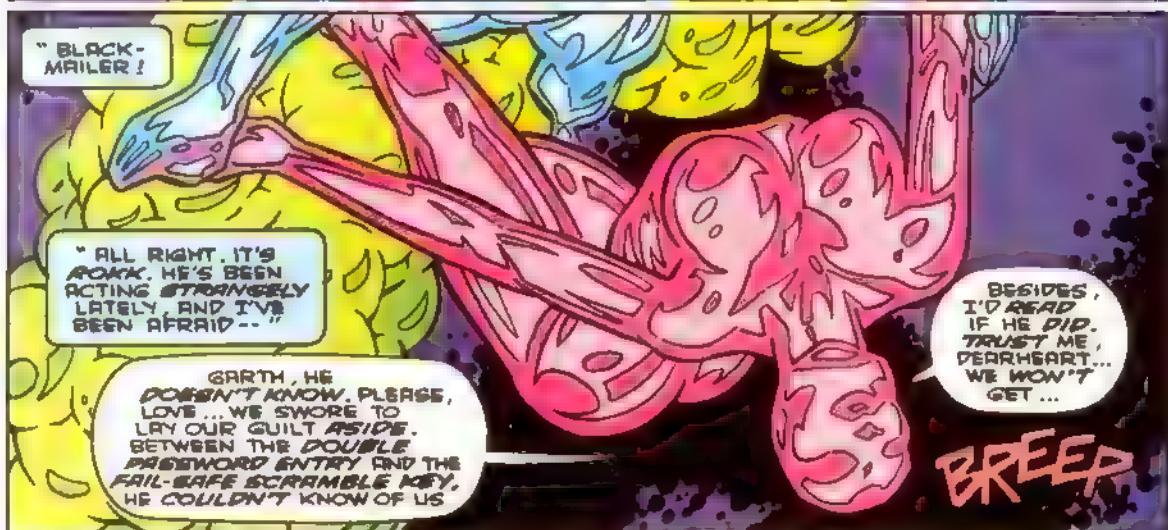
EMOTION
AND POWER.

INTELLECT
AND ENERGY.

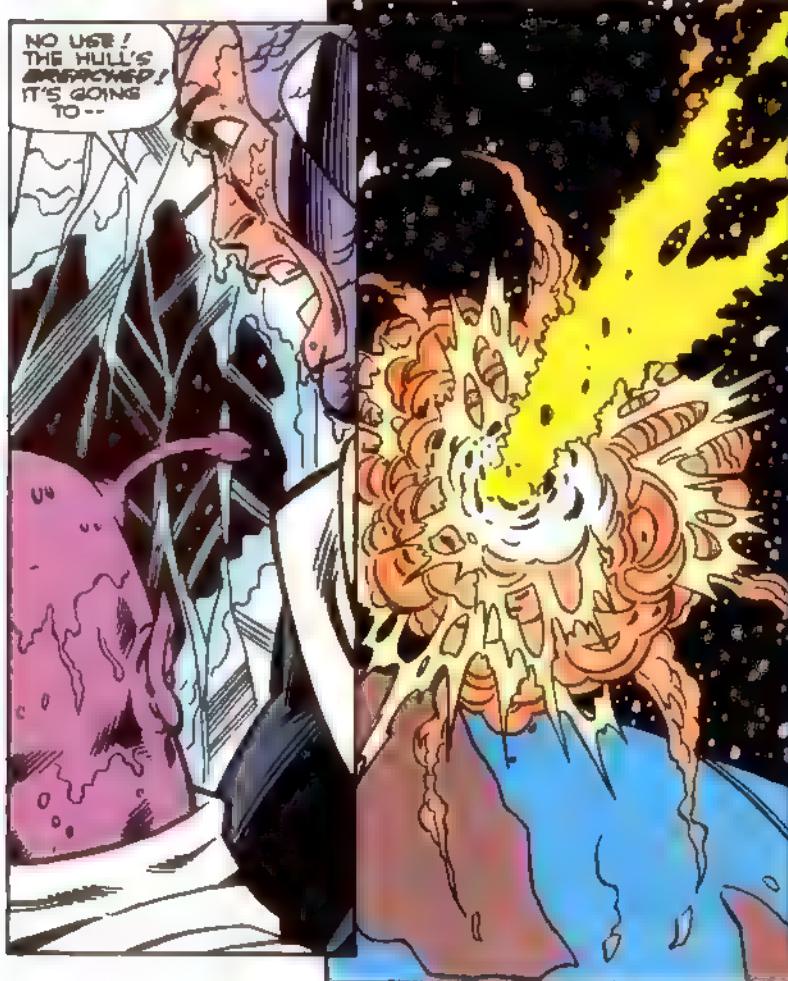
FOR THE TELEPATH
AND THE THUNDER-
BOLT, IT BECOMES
A BRIDGE CROSSED
EASILY... AND
OFTEN.

FOR WHO
WOULD HAVE
THOUGHT ON
THAT LONG-
AGO WEDDING
DAY, WHEN
MIRA ARDEEN
TOUCHED THE
MIND OF GARTH
RANZZ, THAT
TRUE LOVE ...











ORANDO SECTOR.

IT COMES
DIFFICULT,
BUT I CAN
SEE SOME-
THING...

...TATTERED CLOTH
...FIGHTING ... THE
LIGHT OF AVALON
BEGINNING TO
FLICKER ...

...AS THE
CIRCLE OF
DARKNESS
DRAWS EVER
INWARD...

VAL ...

...WE'RE
NOT
ALONE!

ASSASSINS!

SO! NOW THE
CIRCLE DARES
INTRUDE UPON EVEN
THE SACRED CHAMBERS
OF PROJECTRA OF
ORANDO!

STAY BACK,
PRINCESS! YOUR
PROTECTOR WILL
NOT FAIL YOU!



CIRCLE ASSASSINS
LIKE YOU TOOK
MY FAMILY AWAY
FROM ME!

I OWE YOU
COWARDLY
MURDERERS
MUCH!









“DAYS LATER, SECURITY ROOM 149, SUBCIRCLE NINE:

IMRA ARDEN STANDS NIGHT-WATCH.

“OH, WHAT NOW?”

“DOES THIS HAPPEN ON ANYONE ELSE'S SHIFT...”

“...OR JUST MINE?”

“WE NEED TO HAVE THIS BOARD LOOKED AT. THAT SECURITY DOOR ALARM GOES HAY-WIRE AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK.”

“I SWEAR... THIS WHOLE STATION IS PUT TOGETHER OUT OF SPIT AND PROMISES...”

“SIGHE”

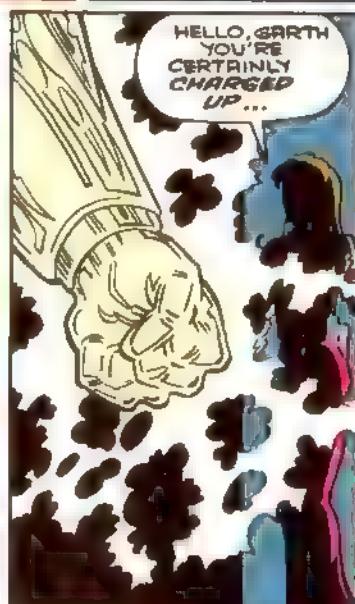
“DO I BOTHER WITH STANDARD PROCEDURE? TAKE A WEAPON, DO A VISUAL RECOG...?”

“...WELL, I COULD USE THE WALK...”

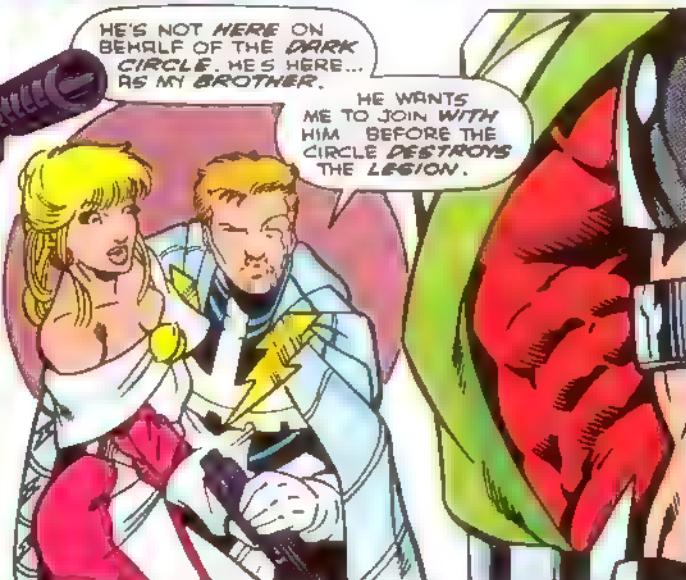


“AS I THOUGHT. CORRIDOR'S CLEAR...”

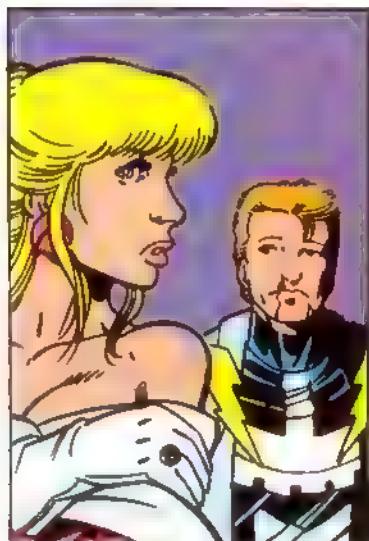
“...BUT IT LEADS TO AN INTERESTING NEIGHBORHOOD. SOMEONE DESERVES A PLEASANT SURPRISE...”



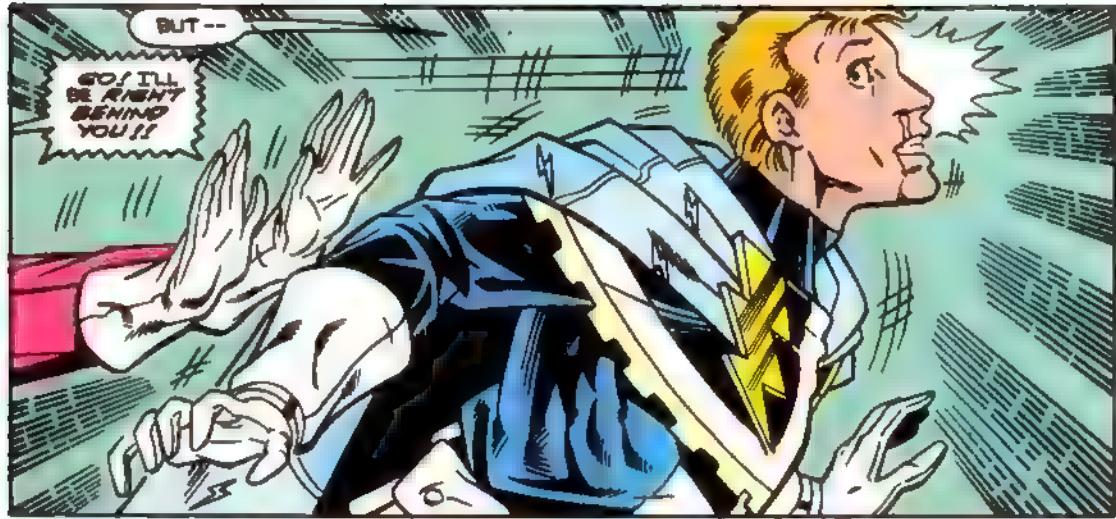
“HELLO, GARTH. YOU'RE CERTAINLY CHARGED UP...”











BUT --
SO, ILL
BE RIGHT
BEHIND
YOU!!



BUT ILLA ADDREN
DOESN'T MOVE!
AT LEAST, NO
MORE THAN SHE
MUST IN ORDER
TO TURN AND
BLOCK HER
PURSUERS.



... OR RAISE HER
HANDS AS
ALCHEMIST CHAINS
THEM WITH IRON.



SHOULD
WE --
TOO
LATE. HE'S
OUT OF OUR
REACH.



HE'S
GONE.

Act Two

... AND SO, IMRA ARDEEN ALLOWED MEKTRANEE-- KNOWN AGENT OF THE CIRCLE-- A SINGLE MOMENT OF AMNESTY.

THAT ALONE IS AN OFFENSE MOST GRIEVOUS. STILL, ERRORS IN JUDGMENT CAN BE FORGIVEN.

BETRAYAL CANNOT.

AND IMRA'S MOTIVES SPEAK... OF HER TRUE CRIME.

SHE BETRAYED HER HUSBAND... AND IN DOING SO, BETRAYED THE LEGION ITSELF. UNITY HAS ONCE MORE BEEN SHATTERED.

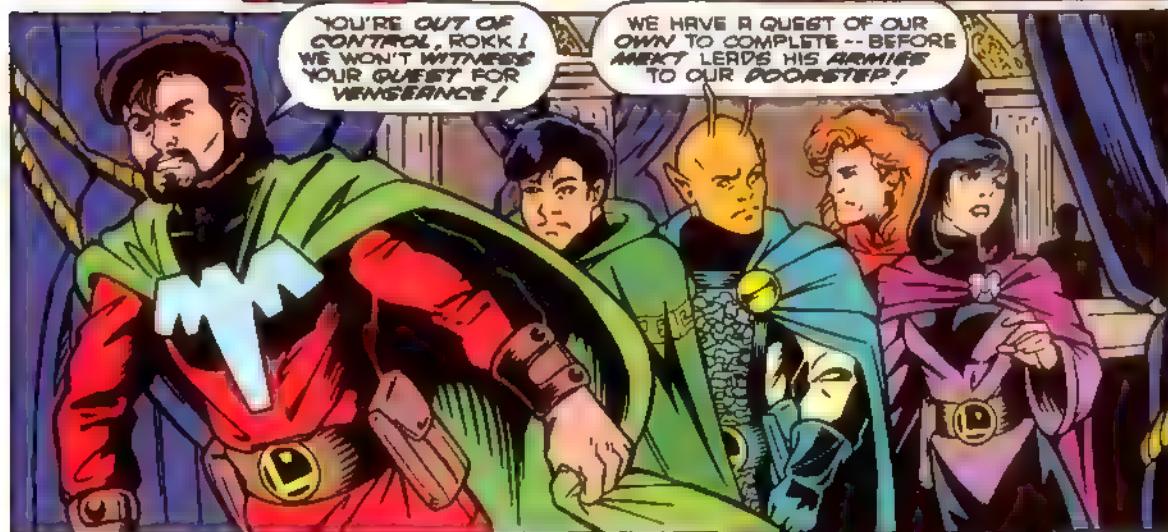
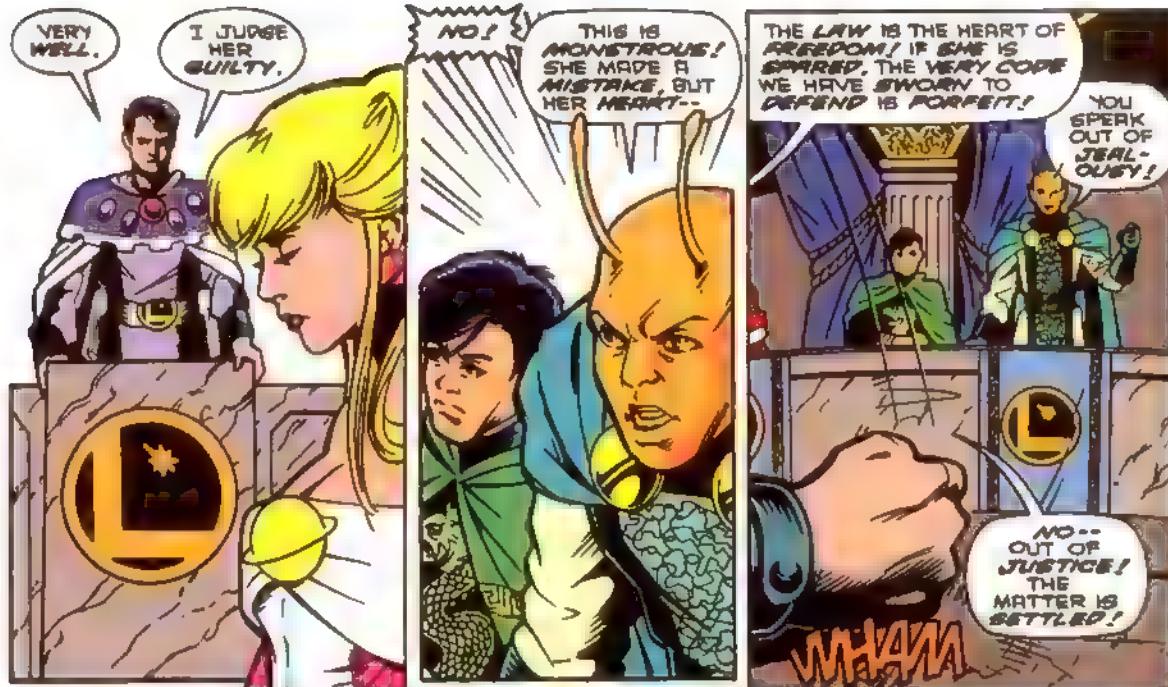


I WISH THAT THIS HAD NEVER HAPPENED. WE ALL DO. BUT JUDGMENT MUST BE PASSED.

IF AVALON IS TO SURVIVE, WE MUST ALL BE GOVERNED BY THE LAW OF THE LEGION... REGARDLESS OF STATUS AND POSITION.

IF NOT, WE SHALL SURELY FALL INTO CHAOS... AND CHAOS IS THE DARK CIRCLE'S GREATEST ALLY.

MY LORD... YOU MUST MAKE RULE.



Days later,
at the edge
of the Epsilon
Quadrant...



THIS IS MORDRU'S
HOMeworld?
WHATEVER I
EXPECTED...

-- IT WASN'T THIS!
BLUE SKIES... UN-
PROCESSED AIR...
IT'S SO INVITING...!

DON'T BE TAKEN
IN BY APPEARANCES,
ULTRA BOY. BELIEVE
ME -- WE ARE NOT
WELCOME HERE.

WE HAD BEST
GET DOWN TO
BUSINESS...

...BEFORE
ALL THIS
BEAUTY
TURNS UGLY.

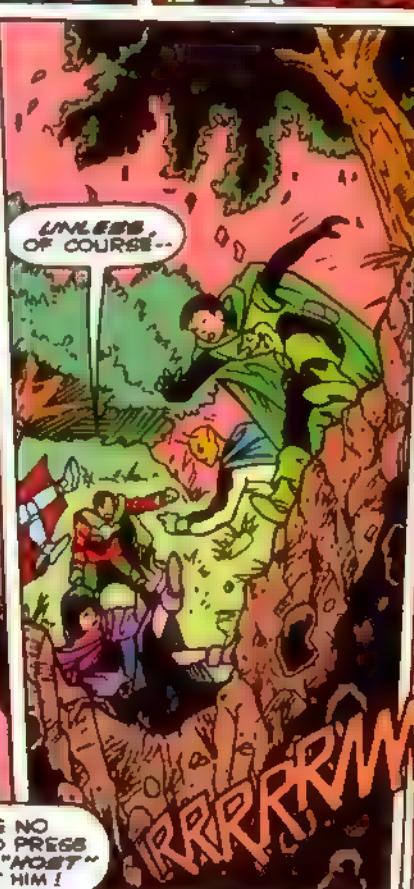
UM,
DRAGON-
MAgE. I
THINK IT'S
ALREADY--

-- TOO
LATE!

VI! GET
DOWN!

WHY

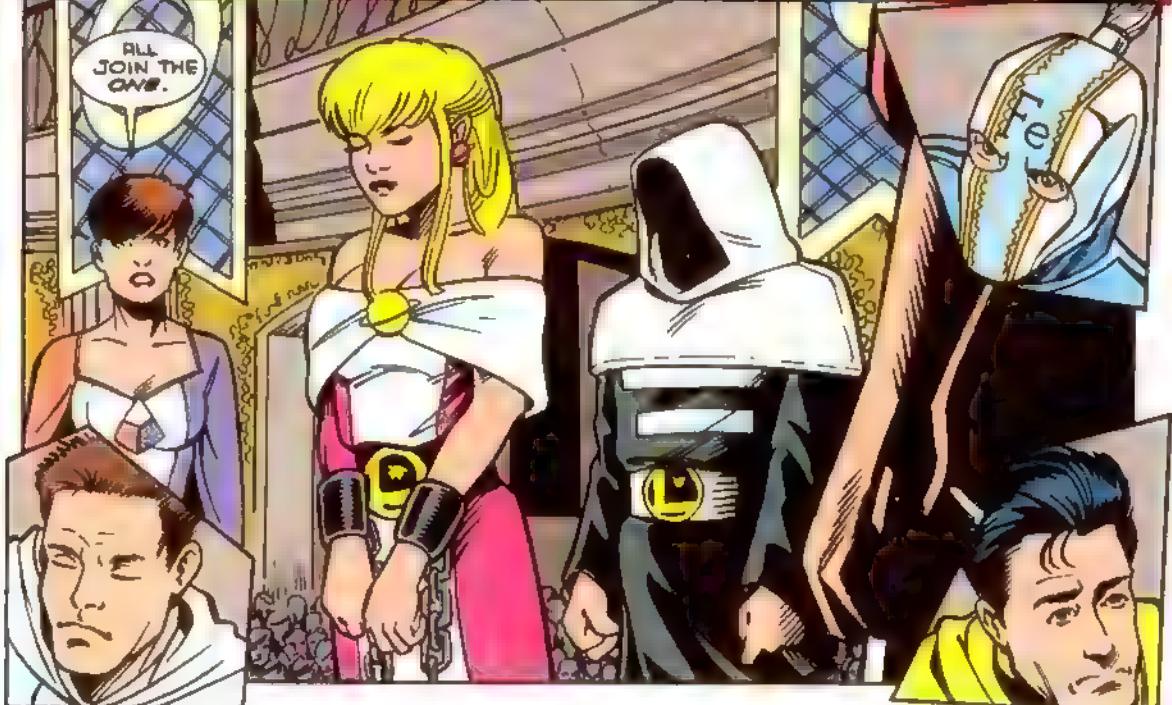
AHEAD
OF
YOU!



INSOLENT
CREATURES!

WHAT COULD BE
OF SUCH CONSEQUENCE
IN YOUR PITIFUL LIVES
THAT YOU DARE
DISTURB THE
SLUMBER...

...OF
**MORDRU THE
MERCILESS?**



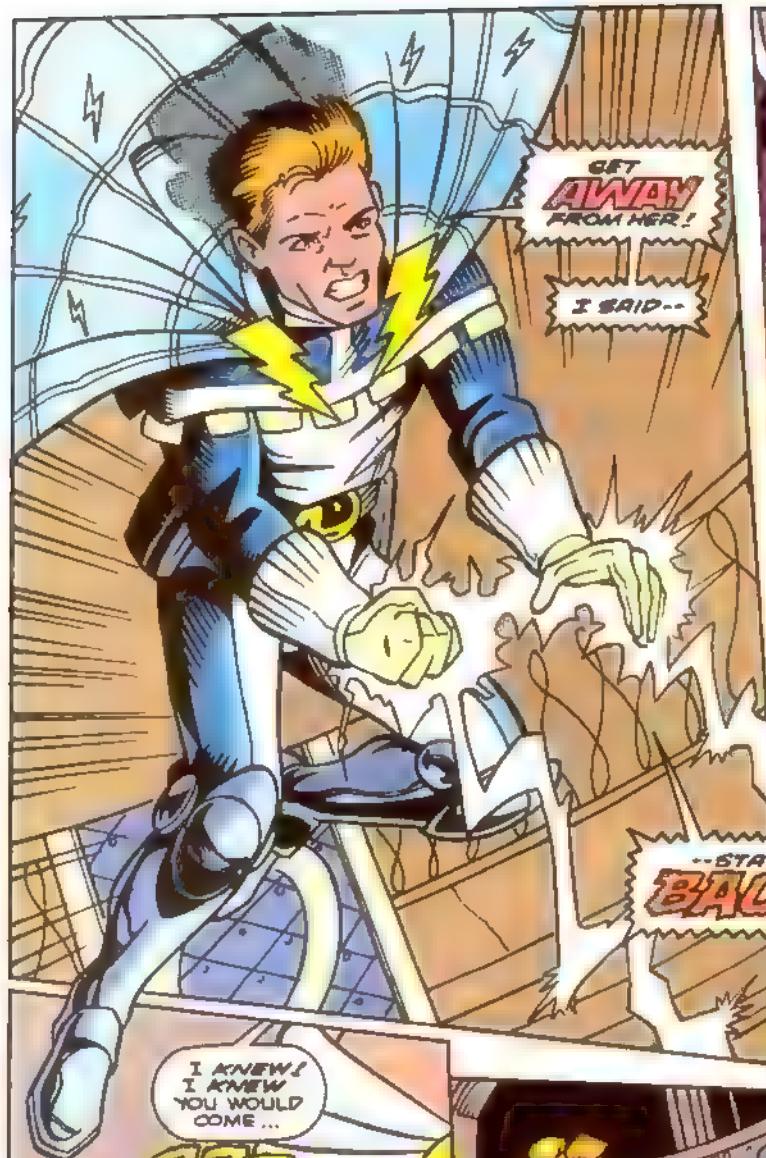
ONE
BINDS
THE
ALL...

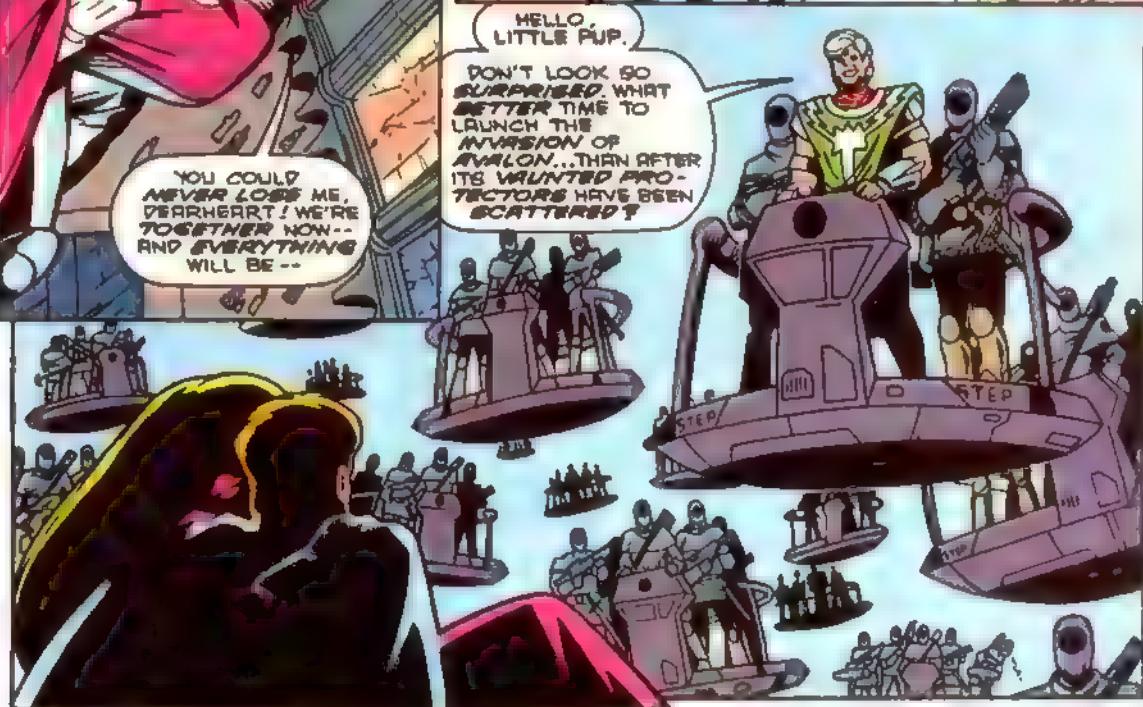
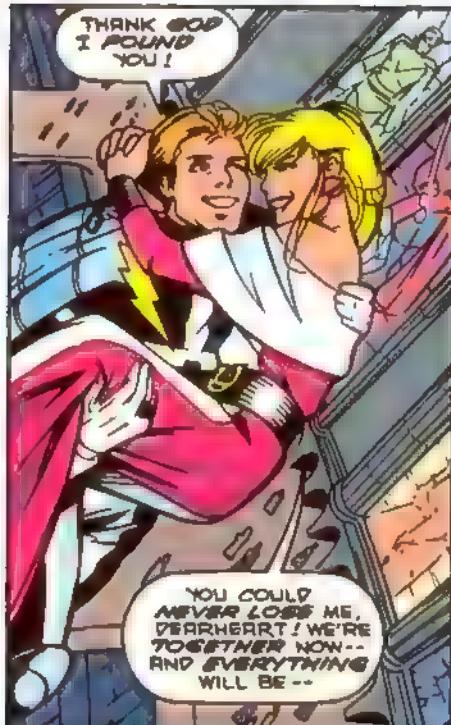


THE
BEGINNING
MEETS THE
END. SUCH IS
THE CYCLE...

...OF
LIFE.

THEN
LET HER
LIVE!







A DEAD END. WE FOLLOWED A DEAD END!

THE MACHINE IS TRULY THE FIERCE ROCK UNLEASHED IT TO BE!

HOW COULD WE HAVE BEEN SO DESPERATE? WE PINNED THE TOTAL DEFENSE OF THE GALAXY ON A WHISPERED LEGEND!

AVRON IS IN PERIL... MEXT AND HIS ARMY HAVE PLANNED THEIR ASSAULT... AND WE'RE MAROONED--HELPLESS TO STOP THEM!

STUPID US! ROKK WAS RIGHT NOT TO PLACE HIS FAITH IN SOME STUPID MYTH! THE LEGION'S ONLY HOPE WAS THE UNITY HE PREACHED!

INDEED ROKK WAS RIGHT ALL ALONE. THE ONLY ONE OF US WHO SAW THE TRUE PATH...

45









MINUTES LATER...

IMR...
IMR...
IMRAT...

I'M--
WE'RE ALL
HERE, ROKK...
FOR YOU.

I
THOUGHT...
IT WAS...
OVER...

AS DID WE.
OUR FRUITLESS
SEARCH LED US
FAR, FAR AWAY...
AND INTO THE
CLUTCHES OF A MAD
WIZARD.

"YOU WERE RIGHT ALL
ALONG, ROKK. WE DON'T
NEED MIRACLES... WE
JUST NEED EACH OTHER."

"WE WOULD BE THERE STILL
HAD HIS HATRED FOR THE
CIRCLE NOT MATCHED OUR
OWN. ONLY BY THAT COM-
MON BOND DID HE GRANT
US LEAVE... SENDING US
HOME WITH HIS SORCERY
IN EXCHANGE FOR OUR VOW
TO FIGHT WELL.

LONG LIVE THE LEGION!







SEVERAL YEARS LATER.

"...AND SO IT IS WITH SOME SADNESS, AND SOME JOY, THAT I DEDICATE THE COMPLETION OF AVALON NOT JUST TO R.J. BRANDE... BUT TO ROKK KRINN, WHOSE LEADERSHIP, DEDICATION, AND COURAGE MADE ITS SUCCESS POSSIBLE."



